

1 **WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 2 1. A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus, comprising:
- 3 (a) a relatively small housing adapted in size to be held in one hand by a user
- 4 during use;
- 5 (b) a scanning input carried by said housing;
- 6 (c) a display carried by said housing;
- 7 (d) a controller disposed within said housing and operatively coupled to said
- 8 scanning input, and said display; and
- 9 (e) a program composed of instructions which are executable by said controller
- 10 for receiving as an input text scanned by said scanning input and for
- 11 providing as an output on said display text which is logically related to said
- 12 input text in a predetermined manner.

1 2. A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said
2 program receives as an input text scanned by said scanning input and produces as an
3 output on said display at least one dictionary definition related to said input.

4 3. A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said
5 program receives as an input text scanned by said scanning input and produces as an
6 output on said display at last one translation related to said input.

7 4. A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said
8 relatively small housing comprises a relatively small and generally elongated housing
9 which is adapted in size and shape to be held in one hand by a user during use.

10 5. A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:
11 an input connection for coupling to an external keyboard, and for providing
12 textual input to said controller.

13 6. A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said
14 program includes instructions which are executable by said controller for alternatively
15 receiving as an input text which is entered on a keyboard and which provides as an
16 output on said display text which is logically related to said input text in a predetermined
17 manner.

18 7. A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:
19 (f) at least one user control button carried by said housing and operable for
20 providing at least one control command to said controller.

1 8. A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:
2 (f) an audio output device carried by said housing and operatively coupled to
3 said controller; and
4 (g) a test-to-speech module coupled between said audio output device and
5 said controller;
6 *Sub* (h) wherein said program includes program instructions for receiving as an input
7 *am* text scanned by said scanning input and for producing as an output on said
8 audio output device an audible output which is logically related to said input
9 text in a predetermined manner.

10 9. A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said
11 program receives as an input text scanned by said scanning input and produces as an
12 output on said audio output device at least one audible output definition related to said
13 input in a predetermined manner.

14 10. A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said
15 program receives as an input text scanned by said scanning input and produces as an
16 output on said audio output device at last one audible output translation related to said
17 input in a predetermined manner.

18 11. A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 8, further comprising:
19 an input connection for coupling to an external keyboard, and for providing
20 textual input to said controller; and
21 wherein said program includes instructions which are executable by said
22 controller for alternatively receiving as an input text which is entered on a keyboard and
23 which provides as an output on said display text which is logically related to said input
24 text in a predetermined manner.

1 12. A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus, according to Claim 1, further
2 comprising:

- 3 (f) a microphone input operatively coupled to said controller;
4 (g) a speech-to-text module for receiving a voice input from said microphone
5 input and for providing a corresponding text input to said controller; and
6 (h) wherein said program includes program instructions for receiving as an input
7 the output of said speech-to-text module and for producing as an output at
8 least one of (a) an audible output on said audio output device which is
9 logically related to said input text in a predetermined manner; and (b) a text
10 output on said display which is logically related to said input text in a
11 predetermined manner.

12 13. A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein said
13 program produces as an output at least one definition related to said input.

14 14. A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein said
15 program receives an output at least one translation related to said input.

16 15. A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 12, further
17 comprising:

18 an input connection for coupling to an external keyboard, and for providing
19 textual input to said controller; and

20 wherein said program includes instructions which are executable by said
21 controller for alternatively receiving as an input text which is entered on a keyboard and
22 which provides an audible output on said audio output device which is logically related
23 to said input text in a predetermined manner.

1 16. A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

2 (g) a paging module operatively coupled to said controller.

3 17. A handheld scanning dictionary apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising;

4 (f) a set of program instructions executable by said controller for generating a
5 touch screen graphical user input for receiving at least one input from user
6 interaction with said display.